

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a cashless gaming service in a gaming network
5 including gaming machines, the method comprising:
publishing an availability of the cashless gaming service on the gaming
network;
receiving a discovery request for the cashless gaming service;
registering by a gaming client with the cashless gaming service; and
10 processing one or more service requests between the gaming client and the
cashless gaming service, said service requests conforming to an internetworking
protocol.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cashless gaming service comprises a
15 web service.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the service request is formatted according to
a service description language.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the service description language is a Web
Services Description Language (WSDL).
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the cashless gaming service is registered in
a UDDI registry.
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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the gaming client comprises a gaming
machine.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the gaming client comprises a service
30 provider.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises an HTTP request encapsulating an OFX message.

5 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to establish a new account.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to modify details for an account.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to close an account.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to
15 provide details for an account.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to obtain an account balance.

20 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to obtain a list of transactions associated with an account.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to deposit funds into an account.

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16. The method of claim 15, further comprising electronically transferring funds from an external account into the account.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising obtaining authorization prior to electronically transferring funds.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to
5 withdraw funds from an account.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising transferring the withdrawn funds as a playable credit on a gaming machine.

10 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to deposit promotional credits into an account.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the service request comprises a request to withdraw promotional credits from an account.

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22. The method of claim 1, further comprising authenticating the gaming client to determine if the gaming client is authorized to receive cashless gaming services.

23. A gaming network system, the gaming network system comprising:
20 a gaming client communicably coupled to the gaming network; and
a cashless gaming service communicably coupled to the gaming network and operable to:

publish an availability of the cashless gaming service on the gaming network;

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register a gaming client with the cashless gaming service; and
process one or more service requests between the gaming client and the cashless gaming service, said service requests conforming to an internetworking protocol.

24. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the cashless gaming service comprises a web service.

5 25. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request is formatted according to a service description language.

26. The gaming network system of claim 25, wherein the service description language is a Web Services Description Language (WSDL).

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27. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the cashless gaming service is registered in a UDDI registry.

15 28. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the gaming client comprises a gaming machine.

29. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the gaming client comprises a service provider in the gaming network.

20 30. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises an HTTP request encapsulating an OFX message.

31. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to establish a new account.

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32. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to modify details for an account.

33. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to close an account.
34. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request
5 comprises a request to provide details for an account.
35. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to obtain an account balance.
- 10 36. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to obtain a list of transactions associated with an account.
37. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request
15 comprises a request to deposit funds into an account.
38. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the cashless gaming service is further operable to electronically transfer funds from an external account into an account.
- 20 39. The gaming network system of claim 38, wherein the cashless gaming service is further operable to obtain authorization prior to electronically transferring funds.
40. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request
25 comprises a request to withdraw funds from an account.
41. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to deposit promotional credits into an account.

42. The gaming network system of claim 23, wherein the service request comprises a request to withdraw promotional credits from an account.

43. The gaming network system of claim 23, further comprising an authentication service operable to authenticate the gaming client to determine if the gaming client is authorized to receive cashless gaming services.

44. The gaming network system of claim 43, wherein the authentication service includes an LDAP authentication service.

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